

CONFIDENTIAL RETURN TO CIA
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300CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany 25X1 REPORTTOPIC Laerz AirfieldEVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] PREPARED 31 July 1950REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED] 25X1

REMARKS

1. In early 1950 two runways were being built at the Laerz (N 54/U 33) airfield by day and night shifts. Crated single-engine planes, called LA-5s by local residents, arrived at the field in February 1950. (1) Two crates were used for packing one plane.
2. The field was temporarily occupied by twin-engine planes from about early March to early April 1950. (2) The first jet fighters arrived by rail about four weeks before Easter. The crates, one on each car, were first loaded on freight cars, then on gondola cars. One plane was packed in three crates (3). At first the boxes arrived at the field in individual railroad cars but later whole train loads of aircraft arrived every two or three weeks.
3. In early May 1950, the assembled jet fighters were parked in the southern section of the field and in the woods so that their total number could not be determined. (2) The assembly work was done at the field. Flights were usually made with individual planes. A Soviet Air Force radio station was in Rechlin (N 54/U 33) (4).
4. About 40 jet aircraft with swept-back wings, high rudder assemblies and air exhausts at the tail were standing at the southwestern corner of the field on 4 May 1950. (2) The planes were not completely assembled, some having the front section of the fuselage and the wings, others the tail section and the rudder assembly. Ten to twenty wooden crates,

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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each 6 to 7 meters long, 2 meters wide and 3½ meters high, were beside the short railroad spur track. Three biplanes were near the boxes. From 50 to 60 single-engine planes with radial engines were parked in front of the flight control station (2). The exact number of planes could not be determined since the field was very strictly guarded. There was a runway, running in an about E-W direction. Two kennels with watchdogs were at the field. [REDACTED]

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5. Local residents said that trains loaded with large wooden crates, allegedly containing jet fighters, arrived at the field about every third week. The last train of 50 to 70 open freight cars, each loaded with one large box arrived on 28 April 1950. Nine crashes allegedly occurred at the field after the arrival of jet fighters.

6. On 6 May 1950 about 40 jet fighters with swept-back wings, about 60 single-engine fighters, 6 twin-engine low-wing monoplanes, and 8 biplanes were seen at the field from a passing train. There was intensive flying at the field between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The sky was overcast. The jet fighters took off and landed individually. A formation of six jet fighters was seen. [REDACTED]

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The field was very strictly guarded.

7. Some of the large crates previously seen at the spur track of the airfield were not there on 10 May 1950. Four empty railroad cars and one steam crane were on the railroad spur track. Many jet fighters were at the southwestern corner of the field. (2) Flying was heavy between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Twenty-two jet fighters took off from the eastern edge of the field. [REDACTED]

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Comments.

- (1) The information on the arrival of LA-5s in crates is doubted. The rumor was probably spread by the Soviets to conceal the arrival of crated jet planes.
- (2) [REDACTED] agree on the occupation of the field by type 14 jet planes and conventional LA-9 fighters. According to observations of March 1950 about 55 jet planes were stationed at the field. [REDACTED] Two fighter regiments, partially re-equipped with jet planes, are at the field. Since a transfer of the LA-9s previously used was not observed, it is assumed that the fighter

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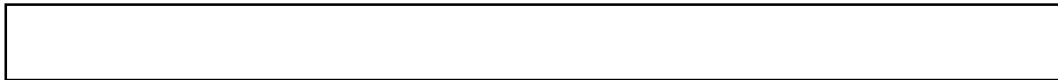
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regiments are equipped with both jet planes and conventional fighters.

- 25X1 (3) The information that one jet plane was packed in three boxes is received for the first time. To date it was known that one plane was packed in two crates.
- 25X1 (4) The radar set probably belongs to the fighter division headquarters. [REDACTED]
- 25X1 (5) [REDACTED] units of the fighter division, the regiments of which are stationed in Parchim and Laerz.
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